



**FILED**

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**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Order Instituting Rulemaking to Develop a  
Successor to Existing Net Energy Metering  
Tariffs Pursuant to Public Utilities Code  
Section 2827.1, and to Address Other Issues  
Related to Net Energy Metering.

Rulemaking 14-07-002

And Related Matter.

Application 16-07-015

**ASSIGNED COMMISSIONER'S RULING REGARDING  
IMPLEMENTATION OF DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES GREEN TARIFF**

This Assigned Commissioner's Ruling (ACR) provides opportunity for parties to comment on how to implement Decision (D.) 18-06-027 with respect to enrollment of eligible customers in the Disadvantaged Communities Green Tariff (DAC-GT) program. This ACR proposes to direct Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) to automatically enroll customers from a targeted population, based on prioritization of customers at high risk of disconnection within the existing parameters of program eligibility, as approved in D.18-06-027. The approach outlined in this ACR is in line with and intended to be in addition to the direction provided in D.18-06-027.

On February 21, 2019, the California Public Utilities Commission endorsed the first Environmental and Social Justice (ESJ) Action Plan. This ACR seeks to implement the goals and objectives laid out in the Action Plan, specifically Goal 2: Increase investment in clean energy resources to benefit ESJ

communities, especially to improve local air quality and public health. Specifically, this ACR seeks to meet the objective within Goal 2, to “improve and increase access to existing clean energy programs in ESJ communities,” by proposing to automate the process for accessing DAC-GT for eligible customers with the highest CalEnviroScreen scores.

This ACR additionally proposes to prioritize enrollment of customers whom I consider to be most in need of consumer benefits (*i.e.*, electric bill discounts) that are available through participation in this program.

The target population for DAC-GT automatic enrollment results from a hybrid approach of first layering the CalEnviroScreen top 15 percent census tracts in PG&E territory as described in D.18-06-027,<sup>1</sup> and then identifying customers in those top census tracts that meet certain criteria indicating those customers may be at high risk of disconnection. The method for identifying this population was developed by incorporating the following specific factors:

- Located in CalEnviroScreen top 15 percent census tracts in PG&E territory within the top 25 percent CalEnviroScreen census tracts as defined by D.18-06-027;
- Eight or more notices (triggering three to six collection processes per year);
- Two or fewer Return to Maker payments (*i.e.*, returned checks);
- Two or fewer disconnections within 12 months;
- Six or more payments within the last 12 months (indicating customers’ effort to pay); and

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<sup>1</sup> D.18-06-027 p.16 includes the additional 22 census tracts in the highest 5 percent of CalEnviroScreen’s Pollution Burden, but that do not have an overall CalEnviroScreen score because of unreliable socioeconomic or health data, so these census tracts are included in the methodology.

- Total Balance Owing is greater than \$0 (with no credit balance on account).

This target population is estimated to be roughly 18,500, but the actual number of customers enrolled would be determined by PG&E using the most recent customer list that meets the above-listed criteria, up to the point when their existing capacity is exhausted. After the available program capacity is met, the remainder of eligible customers would be added to the waitlist to be enrolled as available. After this initial enrollment period, all eligible customers may join the waitlist. Also, customers who are automatically enrolled in the DAC-GT program but who wish to (and are eligible to) instead participate in one of PG&E's other renewable programs<sup>2</sup> would have the option to switch out of the DAC-GT program. Note that the target population is a subgroup of the total eligible 282,859 customers in PG&E territory. Also note that in accordance with Resolution E-4999 and D.18-12-015, PG&E will automatically enroll two populations. This includes transitioning any Solar Choice Program participants who meet all DAC-GT eligibility criterias well as all eligible customers in San Joaquin Valley pilot communities until they are able to access Community Solar Green Tariff when appropriate. Resolution E-4999 allocates 54.82 megawatts (MW) to PG&E for the DAC-GT program, and additional allocations to the operating community choice aggregators (CCAs), which together total 70 MW. If a CCA does not submit a Tier 3 advice letter detailing its plan to implement DAC-GT and CS-GT programs and stating the capacity it will procure for each program by January 1, 2021, the program capacity allocated to that CCA shall revert back to PG&E. The waitlist would determine which customers are

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<sup>2</sup> Solar Choice, Regional Renewable Choice, or Community Solar Green Tariff (CS-GT).

prioritized for enrollment as customers become ineligible for the program or if there is added program capacity.

**IT IS RULED** that:

1. This ruling shall be served on the service list of Rulemaking 18-07-005.
2. Parties may file and serve comments in response to this ruling no later than February 10, 2020.
3. Parties may file and serve reply comments no later than February 17, 2020.

Dated January 28, 2020, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ MARTHA GUZMAN ACEVES  
Martha Guzman Aceves  
Assigned Commissioner